Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 09 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Thursday 10 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 09 Dec 2020 at 03:30

Confidence: High for the mostly cloudy conditions next few days, with sleet or snow at times over the summits. Medium in specific cloud details.

Headline for Wednesday 09 Dec 2020: Some drier and brighter spells in the afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 09 Dec 2020

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Drizzle	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy	Dull
Precipitation probability					
30%	20%	10%	10%	10%	20%

Forecast for Wednesday 09 Dec 2020

Weather: Cloudy with patchy rain at first, sleet on summits. Becoming drier through the morning with the cloud beginning to lift and break, perhaps some sunny spells around the middle of the day. Cloud increasing and lowering again in the evening with patchy rain and summit snow possible but very light

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 50% in the afternoon, otherwise 20% with extensive cloud around 600m.

Visibility: Moderate in rain and poor or very poor at times at height, otherwise good or very good.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Wednesday 09 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	22/25 NW	15/19 W	13/16 SW	17/20 S	21/27 SE	26/33 SE	27/35 SE
600	17/23 NW	15/20 W	11/14 SW	15/21 S	21/29 SE	22/31 SE	26/36 SE
300	7/19 NW	6/15 W	5/12 SW	4/15 S	9/21 SE	10/24 SE	10/24 SE
Valley	8/20 NW	6/15 NW	3/9 SW	4/13 S	8/19 SE	9/21 SE	9/22 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	0/-6	0/-6	-0/-6	-0/-6	-1/-8	-1/-8	-0/-8
600	2/-3	2/-3	2/-2	2/-3	1/-5	1/-6	1/-6
300	4/2	4/2	5/3	4/2	3/-0	3/-1	3/-1
Valley	6/4	6/4	6/5	6/4	5/2	5/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	1000m	900m	800m	800m	800m	800m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing to add.

Forecast for Thursday 10 Dec 2020

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle, mainly light and patchy.

Maximum wind: Southeast 20 to 25 gusts 35mph

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20%, extensive cloud with base around 600m.

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain and drizzle, occasionally very poor at height. Otherwise good.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 Celsius rising to 7 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 8 December 2020. Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:35. Full report: There is a slow daytime thaw at all levels; it was just above freezing with a very light drizzle on the summit. Above 700m fresh snow fell overnight adding only 1 to 2 cm to existing accumulations. Insignificant patches of snow can be found above 450m and these increase in frequency to the main snow line around 650m to 700m. Snow depth rises with altitude to reach an approximate average of around 5cm at 900m; however the actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on exposed areas, such as parts of the summit plateau, to drifts in hollows and sheltered aspects deep enough to swallow a 70cm ice axe although such depth is the exception. Where undisturbed, the snowpack is mainly soft and wet. However on popular routes, where the snow has been compacted, there is hard snow and ice making conditions treacherous, especially in descent. Ice axe and crampons or micro spikes depending upon the snow's depth and steepness of any slope will be useful here. With the summit temperature only marginally above freezing, it would only take a slight drop in temperature for conditions on Wednesday to be far icier than experienced on Tuesday. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges are in mixed winter condition with a mainly thin layer of fresh wet snow sometimes overlying an even thinner layer of compacted older snow and ice along their crests. To the sides of both crests and on the edges' exits the snow depth is deeper, again with harder snow and ice where it has been compacted. It is strongly recommended that such routes are currently only attempted by those experienced in, and equipped for, winter mountaineering including crampons and especially an ice axe. People were again today successfully negotiating the edges without such equipment but a simple slip could be extremely serious; the other point to note is that it was far easier climbing the exits to the ridges without crampons than it was to descend them; another reason it is critical why such equipment must be carried. Many experienced walkers read these reports, so please pass on your wisdom to fellow walkers heading for exposed routes above the snowline without being properly equipped – they will thank you for it! Full winter clothing (waterproofs, warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone venturing out onto the fells. Climbers: Given the soft nature of the snowpack and the thaw, routes are not in condition. Temperature: plus 0.7 C, Maximum wind speed 18.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 6.4 C, Average wind speed: 15.6mph

Issued at: 03:30 on Wed 09 Dec 2020

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